

What is Claimed is:

1. A mask adapted to communicate a flow of breathing gas with an airway of a user, the mask comprising:

a mask body having a first opening adapted to be coupled to a source of breathing gas and a second opening; and

a mask seal member defining a user contacting portion that couples the mask body to a user so as to enable the flow of breathing gas to be delivered to an airway of such a user, and wherein at least a portion of the mask seal member is molded to the mask body generally at the second opening by a two-shot injection molding process while the mask body is cooling and incompletely cured so that a portion of the mask seal member is molecularly bonded to the mask body as a consequence of the two-shot injection molding process.

2. The mask of claim 1, wherein the mask seal includes a first flap member and a second flap member that generally overlies the first flap member responsive to the mask being in an assembled configuration, wherein the first flap member is the portion of the mask seal member that is molded to the mask body.

3. The mask of claim 2, wherein the second flap member is removeably attachable to the mask body.

4. The mask of claim 1, further comprising a coupling member molded to the mask body generally at the first opening by a two-shot injection molding process while the mask body is cooling and incompletely cured so that a portion of the coupling member is molecularly bonded to the mask body as a consequence of the two-shot injection molding process.

5. The mask of claim 1, wherein the mask body is defined by a plastic.

6. The mask of claim 1, wherein the mask seal member is unitary piece of silicone material.

7. The mask of claim 1, wherein the mask body includes a cavity defined therein and a peripheral edge defined at the second opening, wherein the second opening is adapted to communicate the cavity with at least a portion of a nose of a user, and wherein the first opening communicates with the cavity and provides a coupling adapted to couple to a conduit that carries the flow of breathing gas to the cavity.

8. The mask of claim 7, wherein the mask seal member is disposed on the peripheral edge of the mask body.

9. A pressure support system comprising:

a pressure generator adapted to provide a flow of breathing gas;

a conduit operatively coupled to the pressure generator to deliver the flow of breathing gas to a user; and

a mask coupled to the conduit to communicate the flow of breathing gas to an airway of a user, the mask comprising:

a mask body coupled to the conduit; and

a mask seal member having at least one portion that is molded to the mask body by a two-shot injection molding process while the mask body is cooling and incompletely cured, wherein the portion of the mask seal member is molecularly bonded to the mask body as a consequence of the two-shot injection molding process.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the mask seal includes a first flap member and a second flap member that generally overlies the first flap member responsive to the mask being in an assembled configuration, wherein the first flap member is the portion of the mask seal member that is molded to the mask body.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the second flap member is removeably attachable to the mask body.

12. The system claim 9, further comprising a coupling member molded to the mask body generally at a location where the conduit coupled to the mask by a two-shot injection molding process while the mask body is cooling and incompletely cured so

that a portion of the coupling member is molecularly bonded to the mask body as a consequence of the two-shot injection molding process.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the mask body is defined by a plastic.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein the mask seal member is defined by a unitary piece of silicone material.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the mask body includes:

a nose receiving cavity defined therein;

a first end portion having a peripheral edge;

a second end portion generally opposite the first end portion;

a first opening defined in the first end portion adapted to receive at least a portion of a nose of a user such that nares of a user communicate with the nose receiving cavity in the mask body; and

a second opening defined in the second end portion, the second opening communicating with the nose receiving cavity and providing a coupling for the conduit.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the mask seal member is disposed on the peripheral edge of the first end portion of the mask body.

17. A two-shot injection molding method of forming a mask that is adapted to communicate a flow of breathing gas with an airway of a user, the method comprising:

providing a mask mold;

injecting a first material into the mask mold to define a mask body of the mask;

injecting a second material into the mask mold while the mask body is cooling and incompletely cured to define at least a portion of a mask seal member of the mask, wherein the mask seal member is molecularly bonded to the mask body as a consequence of the second material being injected into the mask mold in this manner.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein injecting a second material into the mask mold defines a first flap member of the mask seal member and further comprising a second flap member that generally overlies the first flap member responsive to the mask being in an assembled configuration.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the second flap member is removeably attached to the mask body to define an assembled mask.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein injecting the second material into the mask mold also defines a coupling member molded to the mask body.

21. A mask adapted to communicate a flow of breathing gas with an airway of a user manufactured according to a two-shot injection molding process comprising the steps of:

providing a mask mold;

injecting a first material into the mask mold to define a mask body of the mask;

injecting a second material into the mask mold while the mask body is cooling and incompletely cured to define a mask seal member of the mask, wherein the mask seal member is molecularly bonded to the mask body as a consequence of the second material being injected into the mask mold in this manner.

22. The mask of claim 21, wherein injecting a second material into the mask mold defines a first flap member of the mask seal member and further comprising a second flap member that generally overlies the first flap member responsive to the mask being in an assembled configuration.

23. The mask of claim 21, wherein the second flap member is removeably attached to the mask body to define an assembled mask.

24. The mask of claim 21, wherein injecting the second material into the mask mold also defines a coupling member molded to the mask body.